

## Editor resigns

Astute readers may have noticed a small change on the title page that signals a big change for the Journal. Wendy Cross has resigned as Editor of the *Australian Journal of Physiotherapy* after 11 years in that role.

Wendy was appointed Editor in 1992, a crucial period in the Journal's development. At that time the House of Delegates had recently approved new structures for management of the Journal that still stand today. One of the changes was the introduction of an Editor with professional experience in journal production.

Finding the right Editor took some time but Wendy's appointment began a period of stability and steady growth. Wendy brought to the Journal a very clear understanding of the publication process and she used this to effect, putting in place a new production schedule. The first great achievement of this period was getting the Journal out on time, every time! While readers would have noted the more regular delivery of their Journal, they may have overlooked all the other things that Wendy contributed to making it look and feel so much more professional. In fact while the Journal continued to change over the period that Wendy was with the Association, many of the most significant changes were effected early in her stewardship.

Advertising was another important aspect of journal production that Wendy managed with her usual flair. She was responsible for a significant increase in the number of regular advertisers and took care to manage the layout of each edition to ensure that advertisers got what they paid for and that the scientific content was not intruded upon by advertisements.

Wendy should be justifiably proud of the contribution she has made to the *Australian Journal of Physiotherapy*.

While we rely on authors to provide manuscripts, the Scientific Editor to ensure the standard of published material, and the Editorial Board for overall guidance of the Journal, getting it all together to everyone's satisfaction each issue is no mean feat. Doing so with the patience and good cheer Wendy brought to the various tasks was a skill to be valued highly.

During Wendy's tenure the AJP moved from being unlisted by any index to its current status of being listed in nine indices, including MEDLINE. Authors, readers and researchers appreciate the audience reach that such listings bring to the Journal.

The Australian Physiotherapy Association and its members have benefited immeasurably from the international status that the Journal has achieved over the last 11 years.

It is not surprising, given Wendy's knowledge of publication, that several physiotherapy associations sought her assistance to improve the standard and reach of their publications. Such assistance was always provided willingly and has made a contribution to the goodwill the Association enjoys world wide.

We, the three Scientific Editors who have worked closely with Wendy, acknowledge her work and wish her well in her future endeavours.

**Joan Cole, Kathy Briffa  
and Rob Herbert**

## Letters to the Editor

### **Apparent effects of massage could be due to positioning. (Comment on van den Dolder and Roberts, *Australian Journal of Physiotherapy* 49: 183–188.)**

I enjoyed reading this paper, which showed a positive effect of 6 sessions of massage treatment over 2 weeks on shoulder range of motion, pain and disability. There were two issues that came to mind that have prompted this correspondence.

The first issue concerns the conclusions drawn from the data, that is, that massage is superior to no massage in treating shoulder pain (with painful points in the soft tissues). The authors describe the massage being performed over a sustained period of time of 15 to 20 minutes while the shoulder was held in end-of-range positions of flexion, horizontal flexion, hand behind back, and in the pectoralis major stretch position. Could it not be that the sustained end-of-range shoulder positions may have engendered creep and hysteresis of the soft tissues of the shoulder and have contributed substantially to the observed

improvements in range of motion and reduction in pain and disability? I realise that this question cannot be adequately resolved post-hoc, but the comments of the authors may be of interest to the readership.

The second issue relates to the description of the massage technique. Although the authors indicate the location of massage application, the duration of the massage session, the number of sessions and the position of the joint in which the massage was performed, there was no further description of the applied massage technique(s). Would it be helpful to the reader who wishes to act on the evidence contained within this paper to have further information about the technique, such as, how much pain was produced during the massage application (eg, pain threshold, pain tolerance, or pain threshold sustained until pain disappeared), and what was the movement of the therapist's hands (eg, sustained point pressure over trigger point, transverse friction across trigger point, or short longitudinal strokes)?

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